



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INTERNATIONAL OPEN SOURCE REPORT

2022-02-15

The Freedom Convoy demonstrations taking place in Canada have reportedly inspired demonstrations around the world. This report is a compilation of related open source reporting.

EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Belgium

- On 2022-02-14, Brussels had anticipated a large convoy to converge in the city from various locations in Europe, as protestors had planned to gather at the European Parliament (Brussels). Only a small group showed up, and they were successfully directed to the Brussels Expo, just outside the city limits.¹
- Since the mayor of Brussels has forbidden convoys from gathering in the city, reporting indicates that some individuals planned via encrypted messaging apps to gain entry to the city by hiding protest materials and pretending to be tourists.²
- On 2022-02-13, the Belgian federal police (Dutch Politie) said they had deployed forces along several motorways and stopped about 30 vehicles headed for Brussels.
- Satellite protests throughout Brussels resulted in a small number of arrests (15-20), as well as a number of confiscated weapons.³
- On 2022-02-13, a Telegram channel named "INSIDE Brussels Logistics Freedom Convoy" promised to gather all logistical details for the convoy in Brussels.⁴
- A logistical map of Belgium is available, which provides locations of roadblocks, meeting points, and where assistance can be found from locals. It is not known how many of the protestors may be using it.⁵

France

- On 2022-02-12, a convoy of cars, campervans, tractors, and other vehicles from various municipalities drove around downtown Paris. There were 7,600 protestors in the area and 7,000 police were mobilized.⁶
- Police set up checkpoints, but some motorists were still able to disrupt traffic around the Arc de Triomphe.
- Police fired teargas at protestors on the Champs Élysées. They also made 54 arrests and issued 337 fines.
- 500 vehicles were stopped from entering Paris, and 300 tickets were handed out to their occupants.
- Police arrested five protestors in southern Paris in possession of sling shots, hammers, knives, and gas masks.⁷
- As of 2022-02-13, the focus of the French convoy has shifted to the developing demonstrations in Brussels. By the evening of 2022-02-13, about 1300 vehicles were converging on Lille near the Belgian border.
- Some of this convoy may also end up in Strasbourg, the alternate seat of the European parliament.⁸

Israel

- Starting on 2022-02-14, a growing convoy of vehicles has gathered with thousands of protestors on foot near the parliament building in Jerusalem. This has caused significant delays in traffic.⁹

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Netherlands

- Starting on 2022-02-12, a convoy of hundreds of vehicles has obstructed the entrance to the Binnenhof, the seat of Dutch government, refusing to comply with orders to disperse.¹⁰
- There has been chat on Telegram that the parliament has moved to another location, and that protesting at the Binnenhof will be less effective.¹¹

ASIA – PACIFIC

Australia

- Thousands of demonstrators have been gathered around the parliament buildings for three weeks.¹² The mobility of the demonstrators has been limited by a heavy police presence and barricades. The demonstrations have mostly been peaceful, but on 2022-02-12, 100 individuals breached a barricade on the lawns.
- One man was arrested after allegedly driving a truck through a police roadblock.¹³
- Funds are being raised for the Canadian Freedom Convoy on the Bitcoin fundraising site, Tallycoin. This site is registered in Victoria, Australia.¹⁴

New Zealand

- New Zealand (NZ) is in their second week of protests taking place outside of their parliament. Trucks, vans, and motorcycles have blocked several streets around the area. These protests are reportedly inspired by demonstrations in Canada.¹⁵
- The number of protestors has varied between 300 and 3,000.¹⁶
- The NZ police commissioner has announced that, while the protestors will be given more time to remove their vehicles, sterner measures will be implemented soon, including the use of the military, but for towing purposes only.
- Police have employed a strategy of playing loud music to encourage the protestors to disperse.
- A variety of other tactics have also been used, including issuing parking tickets to convoy vehicles, turning on the sprinklers on the parliament lawn to encourage the protestors to disperse, and arresting 122 people, charging many with trespassing or obstruction.¹⁷

UNITED STATES

- Dozens of vehicles and hundreds of protestors have gathered near the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, NY to express solidarity with the Canadian Freedom Convoy.¹⁸
- At least three different groups have announced plans to gather convoys in California in the first week of March and drive to Washington, DC over the following several days. None of these groups seems to have a centralized leadership or to have a precise idea of how many vehicles will be involved.
- The Three Percenters and Oath Keepers have been asked to join on social media.¹⁹

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- According to data leaked by unknown hackers, 56% of the more than 92,000 donors to the Canadian Freedom Convoy through GiveSendGo were American. A further 2% were from the UK.²⁰

Approved for dissemination: Sandy Harvey, Director Federal Policing Joint Intelligence Group, Bronze Commander
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¹ <https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium-in-brief/206457/belgium-in-brief-scuppered-protests-and-three-day-weekends>

² <https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium-all-news/206352/thousands-more-are-coming-freedom-convoy-quiet-start-could-be-deceptive>

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/14/french-covid-freedom-convoy-heads-for-brussels-despite-police-warning>;
<https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium-all-news/206191/we-are-the-eu-and-we-are-here-freedom-convoy-arrives-in-brussels>

⁴ TIOS produced 2022-02-13

⁵ <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1NFhxMuPjr8QJnDTdXTBxP9vgY5agY0Wb&shorturl=1&ll=50.550031507605766%2C5.047375232031257&z=8>

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/police-stop-50-vehicles-heading-paris-protest-convoy-2022-02-12/>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/12/covid-pass-protesters-convoy-paris-police>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/14/french-covid-freedom-convoy-heads-for-brussels-despite-police-warning>

⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israelis-mount-their-own-covid-freedom-convoy-2022-02-14/>;

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220214-israelis-protest-covid-rules-in-canada-style-convoy>

¹⁰ <https://then24.com/2022/02/14/enough-is-enough-trucker-protest-blocks-government-district-of-the-hague/>

¹¹ TIOS produced 2022-02-13

¹² <https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/politics/covid-vaccine-mandates-are-deeply-illiberal-says-assistant-ag-amanda-stoker/news-story/a46e91f3bf38b893af62a39f56426489>

¹³ <https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/coronavirus/one-man-charged-two-others-arrested-during-convoy-to-canberra-protests-as-act-police-tell-epic-campers-to-leave-peacefully/news-story/170478d6678d73285d620dc1841695c4>

¹⁴ TIOS produced 2022-02-13

¹⁵ <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/new-zealands-ardern-labels-anti-vaccine-mandate-protests-imported-as-crowds-defy-calls-to-leave-2>

¹⁶ <https://www.wbfo.org/local/2022-02-14/protesters-come-to-peace-bridge-to-support-canadian-truckers-attack-vaccine-mandates>

¹⁷ <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-convoy-at-parliament-police-commissioner-warns-protest-no-longer-tenable-as-sit-in-enters-second-week/DBO33JRD4VZJZNPP2H6BPTY/>; <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/new-zealand-plays-macarena-on-repeat-to-flush-out-protesters-1.5>

¹⁸ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/02/14/canada-freedom-convoy-trucker-protests-spreads-united-states/6782235001/>

¹⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/feb/14/us-freedom-convoy-canada-covid-vaccine>

²⁰ <https://www.vice.com/en/article/k7wpax/freedom-convoy-givesendgo-donors-leaked>